

ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to the discovery of soluble isoforms of an Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor, or sErbB1/HER1 variants, the provision of the sequences of nucleic acids 5 encoding these isoforms, purified recombinant proteins, novel antibodies specific for these isoforms, and the use of immunoassay and gene expression assay techniques to measure the concentration of these gene products in a patient biological sample. The present invention also provides methods for determining the presence of an ovarian carcinoma in the patient by assaying the concentration of soluble EGFR/ErbB1 variants in a biological sample from a patient.